



MALIPUTO (*Caranx ignobilis* FOORSKAL) FISH CAGE FARMING PRACTICES AMONG SELECTED OPERATORS IN TAAL LAKE, BATANGAS, PHILIPPINES¹

Sofia A. Alaira¹ and Carmelita M. Rebanco²

¹University Researcher I and ²Professor

School of Environmental Science and Management

University of the Philippines Los Banos

College, Laguna

Corresponding author email: sofia_alaira@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT – The study was conducted among the maliputo fish cage farming operators in Barangay Banyaga, Agoncillo, Batangas and Barangay Pulang Bato, San Nicolas, Taal, Batangas. Direct observation and key informant interview were conducted to describe the maliputo fish cage farming practices of selected respondents. Results showed that maliputo fish cage farming is basically a family-based livelihood activity that involves all able-bodied members of the family in various stages of one cropping cycle. The farming practices employed in maliputo fish cage farming is almost similar with common tilapia fish cage farming. Its stages includes fish cage construction phase; acquisition and transport of fingerlings; stocking and feeding; harvesting and marketing. The major differences however were in the feeding requirement and cropping period owing to the biological difference of the two species. Maliputo fish cage farming has a longer cropping period ranging from 8 to 12 months. Maliputo has a slow growth rate particularly from 8th month onward and requires large volume of feeds over one cropping season to attain the desired weight. The study showed that maliputo fish cage farming has minimal environmental impact and not very profitable as a source of income for the family following the current practices. The operation of the fish cage supported the operator-financier relationship that also exists in the tilapia fish cage farming in the locality.

Keywords: : maliputo fish cage farming practices, direct observation, key informant interview, Taal Lake, Batangas, trash fish.



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